THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) In the seventh round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VII) highest number of bids (181) were received as compared to earlier round of NELP. The bidding and award process for NELP-VII have been completed on the basis of the Bid Documents, Notice Inviting Offer (NIO) and clarifications issued including clarification relating to taxation.

Excise duty on unbranded petrol

188. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a cascading effect of steep reduction in international crude prices, the oil companies in Public Sector are now making a profit of Rs. 11.00 on a litre of petrol and Rs.4.00 a litre of diesel;

(b) whether at the same time the oil companies are still losing around Rs.12.00 on a litre of Kerosene and Rs.33.00 on every LPG cylinder; and

(c) if so, whether to reduce the losses on Kerosene and LPG, Government proposes to impose an Excise Duty of Rs.2.00 per litre on unbranded petrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Based on the Refinery Gate Price for February 1, 2009, the over/under-recovery on the sensitive petroleum products; namely Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are as under:

Petrol	Rs./litre	1.30
Diesel	Rs./litre	2.66
PDS Kerosene	Rs./litre	(11.25)
Domestic LPG	Rs./Cylinder	(74.53)

(Figures within brackets indicate under-recovery)

(c) Ministry of Finance has informed that at present, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Reversal of excise and custom duty cuts

189. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to reverse the customs and excise duty cuts on petroleum products announced last year keeping in view the steep fall in global crude oil prices from $147 a barrel in June, 2008 to the current level of $40;

(b) if so, how much additional revenue is likely to be generated as a result of such reversal of duty cuts by Government; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that there is no increase in import duty on jet fuel or in respect of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) in order to prevent any adverse impact on airline industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Ministry of Finance has informed that at present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for revision of rates of Customs and Excise Duties on petroleum products.

While calibrating duty structure on any commodity, including jet fuel and ATF, Government takes into consideration all relevant factors, such as international and domestic prices of a commodity, domestic availability, the interests of the consumers and domestic producers, the administrative feasibility of collection, revenue consideration etc.

Technology upgradation of refineries

†190. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on an average 28 to 29 litres of petrol and 85 litres of diesel are yielded by processing of one barrel of crude oil in crude oil processing industries of the country;

(b) if not, the details thereof and the average production of petrol and diesel from processing of one barrel of crude oil in oil refineries of the country;

(c) whether this average can be increased by technology upgradation; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The average production of petrol and diesel in India varies from refinery to refinery depending upon the configuration and type of crude oil processed. Most of the inland refineries in India were established based on low sulphur indigenous crude oil processing whereas the coastal refineries predominantly process high sulphur imported crude oil. The average yield in the country is only 17 litres of petrol and 65 litres of diesel.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The average yield can be increased to certain extent through selective crude oil processing and substantially through improved secondary processing, *i.e.* technology upgradation and improved configuration. The oil Public Sector Undertakings have continuously implemented projects to increase refining capacity and maximization of distillates in order to achieve self-sufficiency in petroleum products in the country. Fluidized Catalytic Cracking, Hydrocracking, Hydrotreaters, Delayed Cokers, Catalytic Reformers, Isomerization, Alkylation Units etc. have been selectively added in the refineries for maximization of distillate yield including petrol and diesel.

Blending of ethanol with petrol

191. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of reasons for not implementing Government's decision of blending ethanol with petrol; and

(b) by when Government proposes to implement this blending?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi